CANADIAN Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

Vol. 8, No. 26 TORONTO, JUNE 23, 1943 $2.00 Per Annum

Theatre Safety A1 in Ontario

Sunday Soldier Shows Carry On

Sunday shows for men and women in the services, which take place in Halifax, Toronto, Victoria and Prince Rupert through the courtesy of Famous Players, are considered a success by the military authorities and will be continued.

After a series of them, the matter came up for review at a meeting in Toronto on Monday, June

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Ottawa Vandals Worry Managers

The increase of vandalism in Ottawa theatres occupied most of the discussion at last week's meeting of the Ottawa Motion Picture Theatre Managers' Association in the Chateau Laurier. A wave of vandalism in the past month resulted in costly damage to equipment and property.

The managers told of expensive

(Continued on Page 4)

Walker Gets Another

Malcolm E. Walker, Maritimes operator, has acquired the Majestic, Shubenacadie, N.S., and renamed it the Roxy.

St. John's Council Approves New House

The Municipal Council of St. John's, Newfoundland, has approved of the plans for the building of a new theatre to be called "The Northland." It is to be of entire concrete construction, 156 ft. long by 70 ft. wide and approximately 40 feet high and will have seating accommodation on the ground floor for about one thousand. There will also be a balcony and a stage. The estimated cost of the building is $130,000.

Silverthorne, Film Bureau Head, Praises Vigilance, War Effort

Ontario motion picture theatre operators and the industry in general won the praise of O. J. Silverthorne, chairman of the Ontario Motion Picture Bureau, in his annual report, made this year to the Hon. A. St. Clair Gordon, provincial treasurer. As guardian of Ontario's finances Mr. Gordon, who succeeded Mitchell Hepburn to the post, has jurisdiction over the bureau, which concerns itself with censorship and theatre inspection. Ontario, the most populated province, contains more than one-third of the Dominion's theatres.

Presents Report

O. J. SILVERTHORNE

Chairman of the Ontario Motion Picture Bureau, whose annual report stated that safety and fire prevention in the theatres of the province had reached a high state of efficiency.

Pointing out that the difficulties of theatre operation had increased

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Assure Consideration By Selective Service

The discussion last week between Arthur MacNamara, director of Selective Service, and representatives of the distributors yielded assurances that key men would receive proper consideration in whatever individual cases asked. Leo Devaney and Dave Coplan spoke for the distributors.

Barnes & Davidson

Pete Barnes and Lou Davidson have acquired the Esquire Theatre, Southampton, Ontario, from J. A. Greatheart. The house seats 350.

K.-W. Helps Greece

The Lyric and Capitol theatres in the Kitchener-Waterloo district co-operated with local merchants in contributing a forceful full-page ad to the Greek War Relief fund. The ad appeared in the Kitchener Daily Record.

Holiday Switch Tangles Plans

Bookers and theatre managers were "caught in the switches" when Ottawa issued an order-in-council proclaiming Thursday, July 1st, as Dominion Day for the duration of the war, instead of the first Monday in July on which it has always been observed. Ottawa's tardiness in issuing the information drew criticism.

The bookers were caught with

(Continued on Page 4)

Farrow Debated In Parliament

John Farrow, famed Hollywood director of British origin and formerly a lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Navy, was the silent star of part of the recent debate in the House of Commons on naval matters. The debate was largely between Thomas L. Church, veteran Conservative member from Toronto, and the Hon. Angus L.

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Universal to Offer Ace Summer List

Universal will not hoard its top product during the summer but will let exhibitors have its newest and biggest features in regular order, it has been announced by William A. Scully, general sales manager. He made the news known after working out plans with Nate Blumberg, president, and Cliff Work, general manager.

The Universal lineup to be released during the hot weather season is made up of top productions featuring outstanding box-office stars.

Included in the list will be Howard Hawks' "Corvette K-225,"

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'Mission to Moscow' Debated on CBC

Warner Brothers "Mission to Moscow" was debated yesterday over CBC on a coast-to-coast hookup between John Davidson, lecturer, R. S. Lambert, CBC, and John Collingwood Reade, military analyst of the Toronto Globe and Mail.

Esquire Films will soon introduce to Canadian audiences a new comedy star in ARTHUR LUCAN, England's right-at-the-top comedian, in the first of the "OLD MOTHER RILEY" series, entitled "MOTHER RILEY JOINS UP." A definite brand of comedy the patrons are waiting for. (Advt.)

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HYE BOSSIN, Managing Editor

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Their Contribution

The possible effect of the manpower regulations on successful theatre operation has interested many outside the industry. Those who value the theatre's place in the war effort, among them many newspaper editors and publishers, have expressed concern and this has yielded quite a few praiseworthy editorials on the subject. Though the industry has made no claim for blanket essentiality, many feel that it should. But industry representatives are quite satisfied with the assurance of reasonable consideration where and when needed.

The Hamilton, Ontario, Spectator, in a recent issue commented editorially on the contribution of the theatre and the uncertainty of efficient future operation. Headed "Their Contribution," the editorial reads:

Among those who are contributing generously to the country's war effort are the motion-picture theatres and their staffs. It is doubtful, however, that the general public always appreciates the extent of their services in this connection. When worthy war-time causes are being launched, when national measures are introduced and the Government desires to widen its appeals to the people, these theatres are often asked to place their premises and equipment at the disposal of officials. Similar requests are made with respect to amateur shows, kiddies' entertainments, Sunday concerts, patriotic drives and other community projects. Seldom do the managers and their staffs fail to respond heartily. As builders of morale the motion-picture theatres of Canada are playing an important part.

They often do so, however, under extreme difficulties because the impacts of this war are touching them, too. The demands of man power have disrupted their organizations in many instances and it is becoming harder for them to renew their equipment. Theatre properties are usually on costly sites and as a consequence they bear heavy municipal taxes, apart from the substantial provincial and federal levies which are also imposed upon them.

Mr. George Stroud, manager of the Palace Theatre, voices the general sentiment of his associates when he says that the theatre men are glad to help strengthen war-time morale and support worthy causes. But it would make conditions easier for them if motion-picture theatres were recognized as an essential industry and given a higher priority in labour. The public should also not overlook the war-time contribution of the theatres, which is a valuable one in these times.

* * *

Says Mr. Roosevelt:

To the National Conference of Entertainment Industry for War Activities in session in New York City came a telegram from President Roosevelt which will be gratifying to theatre men everywhere.

Wrote the president:

"It is a pleasure to send you this assurance of my heartfelt appreciation of all you are doing in the field of entertainment to support and advance the war effort. Entertainment is always a national asset. Invaluable in time of peace, it is indispensable in wartime. By co-ordinating the activities of all those who are working in the entertainment industry you are building and maintaining national morale both on the battle front and on the home front. You are doing a grand job and I trust you will not weary of this good work until our enemies are brought to their knees in unconditional surrender."

Ontario Theatre Safety Tops

(Continued from Page 1)

greatly since the war because of the labor shortage and unprecedented vandalism, the chairman reported that exhibitors had continued to provide regular entertainment in safe and comfortable surroundings. Film delivery services and the distributors were commended for the manner in which they helped rural theatres continue scheduled showings throughout the unusually severe winter.

The motion picture industry, Mr. Silverthorne stated, had measured up splendidly to existing requirements "and is continuing to make a unique and important contribution to the task of winning the war." He considered that this year's report, which covered the fiscal year ended March 31st, was the most favorable in a decade.

Of 2,390 films submitted for inspection, more than 100 fewer than last year, 104 were altered. But three feature subjects of the total, which is made up of 16 and 35 mm. films, were rejected and a fourth was allowed after 28 eliminations had been made. These four productions were British "B" offerings, known by all theatre men to have, according to North American standards, a high content of censorable material.

The number of 35 mm. films offered, according to the countries of origin, were: United States, 1,874; Great Britain, 60; Canada, 10; Russia, 16. There were 76 films altered during the period, 60 of which were American and 16 British.

Much of Mr. Silverthorne's report was devoted to safety and fire prevention in theatres and halls, matters of wide interest since several tragic fires drew the attention of the public to them. As proof of the vigilance of the Theatre Inspection wing of the bureau, it was pointed out that of 2,000,000 people who attend places of amusement weekly, there have been no deaths and no accidents. Ontario theatres, manned by staffs kept aware of safety methods by the bureau and the industry, can be emptied in an inconceivably short time.

Theatre licences issued amounted to 418, three of which were suspended temporarily for infractions, and seven operators were prosecuted. Of the 808 projectionists and 228 apprentices who were licensed, seven were suspended. The number of public halls licensed was 2,235, many of which made alterations in the interest of greater safety.

A marked decrease was noted in the amount of advertising received by the board for censorship, apparently due to paper restrictions and longer runs. While 39,659 pieces of advertising were checked last year, only 33,266 were submitted during this fiscal year, of which 169 were rejected entirely and 22 allowed after satisfactory revisions.

Other matters covered by the report were educational films, letters of protest from organizations and the work of theatres in war effort campaigns.

An echo of the recent controversy over swing shift shows was Mr. Silverthorne's statement that "Realizing existing conditions, the department believes that motion picture entertainment should be as accessible as possible to all Canadians, especially those engaged in war work, and members of the armed forces."

Summer Campaign Leaders

BILL SCULLY

NATE BLUMBERG

Universal, with a strong and steady lineup, will challenge the thermometer by tossing a pile of big ones at the boxoffice in the next three months. There'll be no hot weather holdbacks.

THE PICK OF THE PICTURES

Canadian Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

REVIEWS INFORMATION RATINGS

Vol. 8, No. 26 COAST-TO-COAST COVERAGE June 23, 1943

Good Ones from Fox, V'graph

Universal Offers Ace Summer List

(Continued from Page 1)

Walter Wanger's "We've Never Been Licked," George Waggner's Technicolor, "Phantom of the Opera," the Abbott and Costello "Hit the Ice," Felix Jackson's Deanna Durbin-Joseph Cotten co-starrer, "Hers to Hold," the Edwin L. Marin produced-directed "Two Tickets to London," starring Michele Morgan with Alan Curtis, and "Frontier Bad Men."

Universal heads feel that production plans for the next season are powerful enough to warrant releasing finished productions on a steady schedule. Its current sales sessions are being devoted to the 1943-44 product.

"Universal is now in better shape insofar as powerful screen entertainment is concerned than ever before in its existence," declared Scully, "with the result that we are in a position to maintain a steady flow of Class A product to the exhibitors throughout the summer." The many important pictures to be released during the next 90 days are merely a sample of what exhibitors may expect from Universal during the 1943-44 selling season, "for more of the same type are now in the cutting rooms, on the sound stages, and in the process of preparation for the cameras."

Pickford Has Big Plans

Mary Pickford was evidently very serious when she announced during her Toronto visit that she was working on plans for Girl's Town along the lines of Father Flanagan's famous Boy's Town.

Miss Pickford has been in a huddle with David O. Selznick, trying to borrow Shirley Temple for the lead in her projected film, "Girl's Town," which she intends to make at a cost of between $1,000,000 and $1,500,000. The famed star may make an appearance in the film, her first since 1934. Norma Taurog may be asked to direct.

Representatives of all faiths will be called into consultation.

'Stormy Weather' (Fox) Full of Joy
'Atlantic Action' (WB) Thrilling

"STORMY WEATHER"
20th CENTURY-FOX
(Running Time: 77 Mins.)

The boxoffice power of all-Negro films is an open question. But if ever one will make the grade in a big way, that one could easily be "Stormy Weather." The film is nothing but entertainment unadulterated by attempts to give it a fancy story line. It shouts, sings and dances its way through a nice hour-and-a-quarter of celluloid. Nowhere along the line does it let up.

It's a splendiferous production, every big scene well mounted, and loaded with old and new musical favorites handled by entertainers of general popularity. Leading the latter is Bill Robinson, who plays the male lead as well as continuing his symphonies in shoe leather. Opposite him is the beautiful and sultry Lena Horne. Then there's Cab Calloway and his band, Fats Waller, Ada Brown and Dooley Wilson. Wilson, who will be remembered for his role in "Casablanca," doesn't sing.

The flashback method is used to tell the story. Bill Robinson, retired trouper, is explaining the stories behind the photos in an anniversary issue of a theatre magazine. Each photo provides a unit of the film and the net result is the history of modern colored entertainment in America. Robinson's share is that of an entertainer's struggle for recognition and his unrequited love for a star, Lena Horne.

There's hardly a more amusing way for a film and music fan to spend some time. "Stormy Weather" was no simple and uncostly feature to make and it's a fair bet that it will vindicate the time and expense.

"ACTION IN THE "NORTH ATLANTIC"
VITAGRAPH
(Running Time: 126 Mins.)

This story of merchant seamen, the first one that really gives them their due, may be reckoned a little too long for the best results but it's sure loaded with excitement and grim reality in many places. It tells two stories, one of the hardships along the sea route to Russia and the other about the lives of the men who man the ship. On the whole it is a splendid and revealing account of the mariners who deliver the goods.

Most of it is devoted to duels with submarines and bombers. After the main characters are torpedoed and saved after more than a week adrift, the film takes you to union headquarters. The men sign on again, this time for a Murmansk voyage. The effect of bombing and torpedoes is graphically portrayed and some of the most powerful war shots yet offer it to the audience.

Humphrey Bogart is second in command of the ship and carries the main role, plenty of the footage revolving around him. Raymond Massey is the hard-bitten, quiet-spoken skipper and Alan Hale and Sam Levene stand out among the crew. Others who help are Minor Watson, J. M. Kerrigan, Ludwig Stossel, Frank Puglia and a score more.

Three female characters appear, Julie Bishop, Ruth Gordon and Iris Adrian. Their contribution isn't enough to make up the variety in sexes necessary to a picture that long.

"Action in the North Atlantic" should do a good share of business, since the subject is still quite novel and this is the best treatment of it to date.

Valentino Reissue

Astor Pictures will reissue the late Rudolph Valentino's last United Artists picture, "The Eagle," a Russian story. Sound, synchronization and a musical score have been added.

Buffalo Sees 'Spitfire'

Buffalo was the scene last week of the premiere of Leslie Howard's most recent picture, "Spitfire," which is being released by RKO. Air Marshal Billy Bishop was present.

Sunday Soldier Shows Carry On

(Continued from Page 1)

14th, at which were present J. J. Fitzgibbons, president of Famous Players; Brigadier James Mess; Col. John A. Cooper, Canadian Motion Picture Distributors Association; O. J. Silverthorne, chairman of the Ontario Motion Picture Bureau; T. J. Bragg, Odeon Theatres; Jules Bernstein; Loew's Theatre, and representatives of the IATSE.

Although Brigadier Mess has not yet consulted with the Honorable J. L. Ralston, Defence Minister, he expressed himself as pleased with the results and said that the Sunday shows would be reviewed again in October. It is likely that the October sum-up may lead to requests for an extension of the shows to other localities.

It was stated that managers were quite satisfied with the conduct of those who attended. The military undertook the job of ushering and policing and not one case of disorder was reported.

The various representatives expressed themselves as being happy to continue providing their share of things.

The situation in Edmonton has not yet been clarified. The Sunday shows in that city were prevented by an Alberta statute which confines theatre operation to six days a week. At the time of his death the late Premier Aberhart was seeking a solution. His successor may issue a favorable decision at any time.

G. Christie, Operator, Passes at Winnipeg

Gudmundur Christie, veteran theatre operator, died at Winnipeg last week. He has handled Mac's Theatre for the past 12 years.

Mr. Christie, who was born in Iceland, had been a resident of Winnipeg for the past 54 years. He is survived by his widow and one son.

Around the Clock

In Salt Lake City, USA., theatres are running shows starting at 8 a.m. and at midnight for the swing and graveyard shift war workers.

MONOGRAM PICTURES OF CANADA LTD.

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THE 39 STEPS
Madeleine Carrol
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THUNDER OVER THE CITY
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I ESCAPED FROM THE GESTAPO
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Johnny Mack Brown

•

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Richard Travis
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•

SARONG GIRL
Ann Corio

•

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He Likes the Movies

Nicest attitude of any movie reviewer, as expressed by his column title, is that of Ben Lepkin of the Winnipeg Tribune. Lepkin starts his stint off with "I Like the Movies."

At the time my eye caught Ben's pleasing introduction to his wares, he was musing about something that has interested exhibitors, the durability of "The Great Waltz," then in its sixth week at the Rialto—and one of a number of return engagements. The picture was first shown in Winnipeg in 1938. Since then it has had some 70 dates in that city.

During its run at the Rialto Manager Dave Safer, who started "The Great Waltz" off, left for the air force and was replaced by Dave Rosemond, formerly of Saskatoon.

Outside of "Gone With the Wind" the "Waltz" is the only one that parallels the book publisher's best bet, a classic with a steady sale. Music publishers also benefit from that type of item. We may be at the beginning of something.

* * *

Over the Earwaves

Somebody swiped Lou Appleby's car, jacked it up and stole all the rubber—and ditto Frank O'Byrne of ASN. . . . The Film Daily Year Book booted one. In listing the results of its question, "Which of the newer screen faces do you think rate eventual stardom because of the performances in recent pictures?" it lists Dana Andrews among the female selections. . . . Bill Corum of the New York Journal-American comes up with one: "I have often wondered if they couldn't put moving picture club cars on crack trains. If they can't today, there is no doubt that the day will come when they can." Well, there are sea-going circuits so it could be. . . . I learned the other day that there was a newspaper extra on the streets of Toronto bearing the news of the Jap attack on Pearl Harbour. Local Chinese were the first to read about it. The Chinese Times put out 25,000 issues that Sunday. It was the only paper published on that day.

* * *

Homer Bolivar Potts—Genius

That's the name of Harry O'Connor's newest baby—his latest brain child. But unlike most daddies, Harry is somewhat unhappy about his little figment.

Harry, of Famous Players publicity department, is quite a fellow when it comes to turning out listenable radio scripts. Of late O'Connor scripts have been played over the air with much frequency and USA outfits have come after him to share his characters with them. One well-known American radio editor for a leading chain suggested that he rewrite her favorite O'Connor opus into a stage comedy to be submitted to George Abbot.

But Harry is unhappy. You see, H. B. Potts, Gs., will make his debut over the CBC's Western network out of CKY, Winnipeg. And he won't hear it because it can't be picked up here, even by the CBC.

So if you want to spread a little sunshine in the direction of O'Connor, you Westerners listen in on July 1st and drop us or Harry a line to tell him how Homer made out.

* * *

Fast Changeovers

Quite a stirring incident at the Bloor recently during the run of "Casablanca." Three Free French sailors were in the house and when the French in the night club scene sang their national anthem in defiance of celebrating Nazis, the French sailors rose and stood at rigid attention. . . . In Winnipeg, I learn through a letter from Frank Kavanaugh, former 20th Century artist now in the RCAF, newsboys carry ads of the latest pictures painted on their aprons. Reminded me that in Los Angeles newsboys' aprons bear the name of the paper they sell in neon lights. Protects them at night while hustling papers on the roadway. . . . C. C. Bailey, cashier of the Windsor, Grenfell, Saskatchewan, must have hung up some sort of a record during the Victory Loan. He sold $21,600 worth—almost half of the local total of $49,500. In his spare time, too. Grenfell has a population of 750. Can you beat that?

Ottawa Vandals Worry Managers

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leather seat upholstery slashed by razor blades or sharp knives, paper towels stolen by the hundreds during each show, even the towel cases and receptacles being ripped off the walls.

Not only the men were at fault, but in the women's lounges and washrooms, lip-stick was smeared over newly-decorated walls, towels and receptacles stolen wholesale and even the taps removed from the wash basins. The presence of a matron in the theatre did not seem to deter the vandals who waited until she was out of sight and the damage went on.

The managers also discussed the difficulty in securing the proper type of young men as ushers and other personnel since selective service demands were so heavy. Staffs in Ottawa film houses have been drastically cut this year, it was stated, and some thought that was partially responsible for the increase in vandalism.

Secretary Henry Marshall was in the chair and introduced Leo Devaney, head of RKO in Canada, who addressed the meeting.

Holiday Switch Tangles Plans

(Continued from Page 1)

their pencils down. Holiday programs had been filled in and there was a frantic rush to reshuffle product so that things might carry on in good order.

Many theatre managers, in keeping with special local celebrations, had prepared advertising copy which had to be yanked out of the printers half done. Not all communities in the midst of such preparations have agreed to cancel their plans. Some may observe the traditional day in the matter of work stoppage and scheduled events, others may holiday on the date designated by Ottawa and celebrate on the old date.

Mayor Charles Daley of St. Catharines, Ontario, said that unless the government gave a good reason for the change that city would go ahead with its plans for a July 5th celebration. No reason was given with Ottawa's edict but it is thought that the government's desire to save gasoline and curtail train and bus travel might be behind the change.

There is a general acceptance of the order and the industry will have to go over things to make them come out right.

The Nature of Fire Safety

The Problem of Fire Prevention in Theatres, As Explained by O. J. Silverthorne, Ontario Chairman, Is Worth Studying

ORDINARILY statistics are uninteresting. However, some are necessary if you are to obtain an essential perspective of the entertainment industry in Ontario. In presenting these statistics, I promise you they will not approach astronomical proportions, but I assure you they will be of value.

The Theatre Inspection Branch of the Ontario Government, the Department which I have the honour to direct, has particularly concerned itself with the physical condition of 418 theatres (all operating) situated in centres with varying degrees of protection, ranging from the volunteer brigade to the highly trained professional fire fighters; for the condition of 2235 public halls, centres of activity in villages and cities from one end of the province to the other; for the training and education of 1200 motion picture projectionists, and finally for the safety of approximately 2,000,000 persons who weekly attend places of amusement in Ontario.

The provision of entertainment through motion picture censorship; the condition and operation of halls and theatres; the training of projectionists are all of importance in the Department's scheme of things, but of the utmost importance is the safety of the audiences ranging from children to aged adults. While it is true the balance sheet of the amusement companies may be of the utmost concern to the companies, I am certain I will have no difficulty in securing your assent to the departmental policy which places human lives before all else.

The history of the Department, and its achievements which are regarded as exceptional by competent authorities, is, I believe, largely responsible for the fortunate position in which the industry finds itself today. I think I can give you the assurance that the industry in Canada is qualified to meet any possible emergencies arising during this global war.

* * *

AN ACCIDENT in St. Catharines in 1910 which resulted in the death of a motion picture operator was a factor in bringing about the establishment of the Theatre Inspection Branch, I am told.

At the time, the motion picture industry was in its infancy. Theatre owners built as they saw fit, guided only by local building by-laws of a general character. The home of entertainment was still the Town Hall for its travelling players and the theatre for the larger centres. There were few, who, thirty years ago, could visualize the expansion of the motion picture industry to its present state. The operator in St. Catharines who lost his life entered his primitive booth through a trap door by means of a ladder. When the fire broke out, he had none of the present day modern appliances to quench the flames and his means of egress was cut off.

There has been one theatre fire of consequence in Canada during a quarter of a century. This was the fire in Montreal which resulted in the death of so many children. I would remind you that the subsequent inquiry revealed that the appalling loss of life was due to panic and to the absence of safety regulations as we know them today. Reviewing conditions as they now exist, and I can only speak for Ontario, I would say there isn't a theatre which could not be emptied of its patrons long before a fire could make even minor progress.

We were just organized when the Great War of 1914 broke out. With the war came restrictions on building and as a result the development of the motion picture industry dates from the close of the war in 1918. Since then, there has been neither loss of life, nor serious property damage. During the last decade, a period involving the extremes of poverty and prosperity, the problems of the Department necessarily were multiplied, if by nothing else than the natural growth of the industry.

At present, reports of theatrical interests show the largest attendance since they have become recognized as a factor in the social and economic life of the Province. Consequently, you will agree that the tasks of the Department are the heaviest since its establishment.

How is the Department measuring up to the responsibilities? In answering the query, I tell you of entertainment with safety. I would hope that my report will meet with your approval; I would hope also that out of what I have to tell you, you will find something lacking. If so, you will be able, I trust, to offer suggestions which will make the several hundred theatres and still larger number of public halls safer for those who patronize them.

Safety by the elimination of the cause of fires, fear and panic to the patrons of the theatres and public halls has been our objective at all times. To maintain this feeling of safety and security the Department works night and day to determine that every possible fire hazard has been eliminated even in the most remote areas of the Province.

THE greatest menace and one which cannot be guarded against totally is PANIC. The Department is continually devising means of meeting this menace.

Recently, in co-operation with theatrical interests, a "Safety Trailer" was produced and is now being exhibited in every licensed theatre. This tells the audience what to do in case of emergency. Attention is drawn to exits and how they are designated. Patrons are instructed to WALK—not run to them. It tells also that the staff is qualified and trained to meet any emergency.

When war broke out, it was feared there might be interruptions to electric services in the theatres. All theatres were ordered to install emergency lighting systems. It was felt that a panic might arise if audiences without apparent reason were suddenly forced to sit in darkness and compelled to remain there some length of time.

Just how easy it would be to leave a theatre in case of emergency is revealed by the regulation which compels all theatres to be equipped with doors which open outward. All exit doors may be opened with panic bars which operate with a slight downward pressure of the hand or body. All areas leading to these exits, including aisles, are well lighted as are the court-yards outside. Stairs in public buildings have always been considered a danger, and now wherever possible ramps are being installed.

Few people ever regard the furnace room and air-conditioning plant as of vital importance to the safety of the patron. The furnace room must be constructed of brick or concrete with entrance by a fire door which is automatically controlled. The fuel is stored in a separate fire resistive room and separated by a metal door from the furnace. Ventilation of this room is afforded to the open air, thus assuring a plentiful supply of fresh air and guarding against a back draft.

* * *

I AM sure the projection suite is now as fire-resistive as is possible. This all important section in the motion picture theatre is considered the most likely fire hazard of the building, but now, the projection suite is such that even if a minor blaze broke out, the room can be shut off from the auditorium in the fraction of a second. You must remember that film is highly inflammable and should a fire start in the projection room there must be some provision to prevent it from spreading to the other parts of the building.

The room for this reason must be constructed of steel and concrete and equipped with metal clad doors controlled by automatic closing devices. All openings to the auditorium are protected by metal shutters which may be dropped either individually or collectively in the case of fire. Ventilation is supplied to the open air to carry off smoke and fumes.

Every projection suite is equipped with a number of fire extinguishers and we have insisted upon the use of insulated sectional film cabinets to protect the highly inflammable film. All furniture such as tables, chairs, and so forth, are of metal, leaving only the film as the source of fire.

* * *

WHILE the regulation requiring matrons to be in attendance during children's matinees has been in effect for years, it is not until recently that it has been strictly enforced. This has been accomplished by the Department with the co-operation of the industry, municipal authorities and welfare organizations. Parents can now send their children to the theatre knowing that they are well supervised and that every precaution is taken for their safety and conduct.

* * *

DURING the year seven theatres were prosecuted, mainly for overcrowding. Three theatre licenses and seven projectionists' licenses were suspended for various infractions of the Theatre Regulations. Three public hall licenses were also suspended upon the advice of the Provincial Police or the local officials of the municipalities in which the hall was located.

As I stressed earlier, our first duty is the protection of our citizens and from the theatre inspection viewpoint, for which I speak, our primary concern is the provision of such safety measures that the services of the fire fighters shall as far as is humanly possible, not be necessary. I can assure you gentlemen, however, that just as a business man feels much more comfortable when he has a substantial balance in the bank, so we feel much happier when we know that an efficient fire fighting organization is operating.

I may say that in carrying out our safety measures, we have endeavored to be as reasonable as possible with the entertainment operators who have their own individual problems, and I, as director of the Department, would like to express my thanks to them for the co-operation they have extended.

Producers Releasing Corporation
PRC
R. J. ALLEN, President

PRC Releases
2 Hits for June

The Payoff

Rated by Cosmopolitan Magazine as a "must see." Read the reviewers' payoff on "The Payoff"

The Yanks Are Coming

with
HENRY KING
and
HIS ORCHESTRA
and
Mary Healy, Little Jackie Heller, Dorothy Dare, Slapsy Maxie Rosenbloom and Parkyakarkus

★

MR. EXHIBITOR—Screen this picture and you'll go home humming these tunes:

Don't Fool Around With My Heart

Zip Your Lip

I Must Have Priorities On Your Love

★

—Coming—
CORREGIDOR

★

Producers Releasing Corporation
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Executive Offices:
277 Victoria St., Toronto, 2, Ont.

Help the Greeks!

Thousands of Greeks are dying from starvation. Please help send food, medicines, supplies by sending donation to
GREEK WAR RELIEF FUND
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Or any Branch of the Royal Bank of Canada

Canadian food is stemming starvation in Greece
Please help. Send donation to GREEK WAR RELIEF FUND
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Starving Greeks are depending on you
Please send donation to
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Food is urgently needed in starving Greece
Please help. Send donation to GREEK WAR RELIEF FUND
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Greece is depending on Canadian Food . . .
Send donation to GREEK WAR RELIEF FUND
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Any branch of the Royal Bank of Canada

Help send food to Greece
Send donation to
GREEK WAR RELIEF FUND
IN YOUR COMMUNITY or
Any branch of the Royal Bank of Canada

Use the Above Drop-ins or Add Your Own To Theatre Ads. Posters for Display Can Be Had at Fox Exchanges

ASN Montreal Fire

Fire in the 16 mm. printing department of Associated Screen News in Montreal caused ill effects for four staff members. Some film was lost.

'Newsreel' to 'Victory'

The Newsreel Theatre, Montreal, has changed policy and will go back to regular programs, mainly reissues. The name has been changed to the "Victory."

Have you any used equipment around your theatres. Send us a list and we will clear it out for you!

There is satisfaction in buying at the right prices. May we quote you—yes, on anything which you can think of!

Farrow Debated In Parliament

(Continued from Page 1)

Macdonald, Minister of National Defence for Naval Services. Farrow was brought into it when the minister pointed out that Mr. Church, a consistent critic in naval affairs, had "never liked this officer for some reason or another," because he had frequently asked questions about him.

Once, the minister recalled, when a naval college was proposed, Mr. Church had offered "a very gratuitous jibe" at Lieutenant Farrow by saying: "I suppose the minister will announce the appointment of Lieutenant Farrow as commandant of the college."

"We have to go to Hollywood to get a man to compile a history of the Canadian navy," Mr. Church said in replying. "The press gallery of the house and our newspaper offices contain many men who have forgotten more about this matter than this gentleman ever knew. . . . The government was not satisfied with this one instance; they brought a lot of people from Hollywood to film shows for our silent fleet and sent them across Canada to tell us about the navy."

Mr. Church quoted a return on Lieutenant Farrow, which revealed the following information:

(1) Lieutenant Farrow had acted as controller of naval information.

(2) He had offered his services in case of emergency to the navy in 1936.

(3) He had received only the usual pay and allowances.

(4) As controller of naval information his duties included censorship in collaboration with the director of naval intelligence; compilation of various reports on naval activities and of a war diary; preservation and tabulation of sources for historical purposes; organization and administration of the photographic section of the navy; and liaison duties connected with press, radio and motion pictures.

The return described Lieutenant Farrow as an author, historian and film director of exceptional ability and stated that the navy had been in urgent need of a qualified officer to take over the duties of naval information and naval historian.

Farrow, husband of Maureen O'Sullivan, was discharged from the Royal Canadian Navy last year because of ill health. Since then he directed "Wake Island," "The Commandos Strike at Dawn" and "China." He has been praised as highly efficient, courageous and sincere by many who knew him while with the navy.

NFB Released Two New Ones

Currently released for general distribution are the two latest National Film Board short subjects, "Thought for Food" and "War for Men's Minds". The former, issued under the Canada Carries On series, is a treatment of the diet and nutrition problems being investigated by Canadian research workers and the application of scientific findings by the Canadian housewife. The new care being given to the selection of correct foods for a balanced diet being practiced in Canada today is contrasted with inadequate diets that undermined health so drastically during the last depression.

"War for Men's Minds," released in "World in Action" series, is a documentary treatment of psychological warfare and a survey of how the present war of nerves is being carried on. It illustrates the effect with which Hitler's favorite weapon, psychological warfare, is being turned against him by the Allied nations, through the mediums of a free press, radio and film industry.

Latest newsreels issued by the National Film Board are "Spruce Story", "Coal Story", "Sheep Story" and "Cattle Story". The last two will be shown within the next two weeks to the average weekly audience consisting of one hundred million theatre patrons who see these newsreels in Canada and the United States.

Recruiter

JACK NELSON

Manager of the Capitol, North Bay, Ontario, who was commended by the army for his recruiting work.

An important reminder

about

YOUR INCOME TAX RETURNS

JUNE 30th

IS THE DEADLINE

for

A All 1942 Individual T. 1 Returns.

B All 1942 Excess Profits Tax Returns of Proprietorships and Partnerships.

C All 1942 T. 2 Income and Excess Profits Tax Returns by Corporations whose fiscal year ended 31st December, 1942.

EMPLOYERS

HAVE YOU given your employees their copies of your T. 4 Supplementary slips, so that they may complete and make their Income Tax Returns by the 30th of June?

MAKE RETURNS NOW — AVOID PENALTIES

DOMINION OF CANADA — DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL REVENUE

INCOME TAX DIVISION

COLIN GIBSON, *Minister of National Revenue*

C. FRASER ELLIOTT, *Commissioner of Income Tax*

Army Honors Jack Nelson

Further recognition by military authorities of the work done by Jack Nelson of North Bay, Ontario, manager of the Capitol Theatre, as chairman of the Nipissing District Citizens' Recruiting Committee over a lengthy period, came last week in his appointment as civilian recruiting adviser for Military District No. 2.

Various military men have issued commendations concerning the efforts made and results achieved by Nelson and his committee during the past two or three years. This latest recognition is in a letter from Maj.-Gen. C. F. Constantine, Toronto, district officer commanding Military District No. 2, and an accompanying certificate signed by the district officer commanding and by the Canadian director of army recruiting. Emblematic of Mr. Nelson's new office is a lapel button.

The letter from Maj.-Gen. Constantine states: "The district recruiting officer tells me that he has received splendid co-operation from you every time he has asked for your help. He also informs me that your activities not only extend to helping with recruiting but also many other things with regard to the army, including auxiliary services and welfare and in fact never yet have you been called upon or asked to do something or even of your own free will have seen something to be done that you have not done it with splendid results."

Military District No. 2, for which Nelson is now civilian recruiting adviser, takes in a huge Northern area from Orillia to the Far North and from Sault Ste. Marie to points a considerable distance east of North Bay.

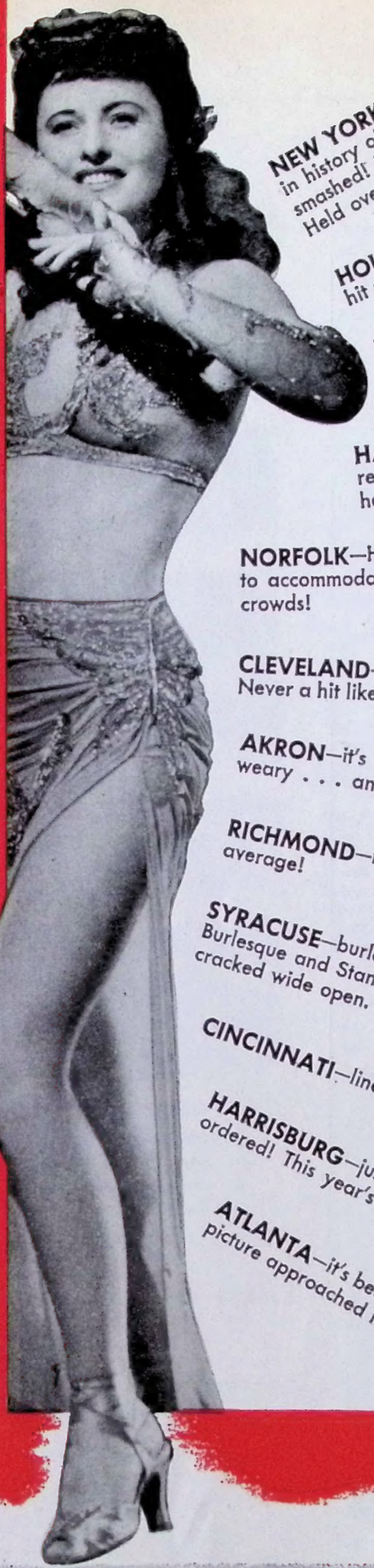
That much work and time are necessary in Mr. Nelson's new role is evidenced by the vast amount of correspondence in his hands dealing with every phase of recruiting and all angles of a soldier's life from the pre-enlistment period to the rehabilitation benefits after the soldier steps out of the uniform.

Humphrey Lectures to Grenfell Club

The Homemakers' Club of Grenfell, Saskatchewan, heard H. S. Humphrey, manager of the Windsor Theatre, lecture last week on the motion picture industry, covering contracting, booking, shipping, revising and exhibition. A roll call was taken of the favorite motion picture of each person present and the exhibitor was able to provide some interesting detail in connection with each.

BARBARA STANWYCK in Lady of Burlesque

HEADLINES BOX-OFFICE REPORTS ACROSS THE NATION!



NEW YORK CITY—every record in history of current Capitol policy smashed! Held over second week! Held over third week!

HOUSTON—biggest U.A. hit since "Stella Dallas"!

DAYTON—held over with grosses going up, up, up . . . every day!

HARTFORD—All-time record in spite of year's heaviest rains!

NORFOLK—Held over to accommodate record crowds!

CLEVELAND—held over! Never a hit like it!

AKRON—it's meat for the war-weary . . . and it's unrationed!

RICHMOND—receipts 170% of average!

SYRACUSE—burlesque is back! Burlesque and Stanwyck too! All records cracked wide open.

CINCINNATI—lines, lines—all day—every day!

HARRISBURG—just what the showman ordered! This year's top ticket-seller.

ATLANTA—it's been months since any picture approached it!

Still the Champion!

HUNT STROMBERG delivers a new winner...the kind that made him Fame's Champion Producer...won him greatest number of Boxoffice's Blue Ribbons!

HUNT STROMBERG presents **BARBARA STANWYCK** in **"LADY OF BURLESQUE"**
with **MICHAEL O'SHEA** and J. EDWARD BROMBERG • CHARLES DINGLE • FRANK CONROY • GLORIA DICKSON
MARION MARTIN • IRIS ADRIAN • VICTORIA FAUST • PINKY LEE • FRANK FENTON • JANIS CARTER • EDDIE GORDON
Directed by **WILLIAM A. WELLMAN** • A HUNT STROMBERG PRODUCTION
Based on the Best-Selling Novel "G-STRING MURDERS" by GYPSY ROSE LEE

from United Artists— So Right—Right Now!